

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 071256Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7413

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SF, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: BOTHA'S REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA, JUNE 6, GAVE QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT TO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND SAID ITS SUCCESS DEPENDED ON WHETHER IT COULD BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE ADVANCE HANSARD TEXT OF THAT SECTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT JUNE 6 DEALING WITH RHODESIA.

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QUOTE: THE HON. MEMBER REFERRED TO THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT LAST YEAR AS A HIGHLIGHT. HE FEARS THAT ANARCHY AND TERRORISM ARE INCREASING. HE ASKS WHAT SOUTH AFRICA'S STANDPOINT IS ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND WHETHER WE ARE SUPPORTING THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL AGREEMENT.

THIS IS A VERY DELICATE QUESTION. WE DO NOT PRESCRIBE TO AND INTERFERE WITH RHODESIA. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS NATURALLY VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL, AND STABLE SOLUTION BEING REACHED IN SALISBURY AND WE HOPE SUCH A SOLUTION WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. WE ARE THEREFORE INTERESTED IN ANY SOLUTION IN RHODESIA THAT WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS AND WOULD BRING ABOUT A STABLE GOVERNMENT WHICH ALSO WOULD ENJOY MAJORITY SUPPORT IN RHODESIA. IT IS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST, BUT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT, THE IDEOLOGY, THE PARTICULAR COMPLEXION OF THE PARTY THAT WILL WIN THE ELECTION, BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THAT COUNTRY. IN OUR OPINION THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF A SOLUTION, AND ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT IS A STEP FORWARD IS WELCOMED. BUT IT WILL DEPEND UPON THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT WHETHER THE AGREEMENT IS CONFIRMED, WHETHER IT STICKS, AS THE AMERICANS SAY, WHETHER IT WILL WORK AND BRING ABOUT A DE-ESCALATION OF WARFARE. WE REMAIN IN FAVOUR OF A SOLUTION THAT WILL ATTRACT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY, BUT WITHOUT DISCOUNTING THE VERY, VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA HAS OF SUCCEEDING. IN THIS RESPECT I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO MR. JOSHUA NKOMO TO RETURN TO SALISBURY AND TO WORK WITH THAT AGREEMENT SO THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL PROCESS CAN BE COMPLETED IN RHODESIA BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WITH, HOPEFULLY, A STABLE GOVERNMENT THERE, SO THAT THROUGH THAT STABILITY IN THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CAN REAP CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: BOTHA'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS NOTABLY HEDGED. THIS IS THE MOST EXPLICIT HIGH LEVEL SAG STATEMENT TO DATE INDICATING THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT DEPENDS IN PART ON WHETHER IT CAN BRING ABOUT A DE-ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING. SIGNIFICANTLY, BOTHA DID NOT CRITICIZE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS DID PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ON MAY 27 (CAPE TOWN 1085). EDMONDSON

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